

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
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R 141757Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0188

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 1948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS CS

SUBJECT: CONTINUED TALK OF A COUP

REF: SAN JOSE 1862

1. DURING MEETING WITH ME MAY 13, PRESIDENT ODUBER SAID THAT SINCE OUR LAST CONVERSATION FORMER PRESIDENT FIGUERES HAD APPROACHED HIM DIRECTLY AND SUGGESTED THAT HE OUGHT TO DISSOLVE CONGRESS AND RULE BY DECREE, USING THE TIME TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO CORRECT EXISTING DEFICIENCIES. FIGUERES WARNED THAT IF ODUBER DID NOT INTER- VENE, HE WOULD LIKELY BE FACED WITH A COUP COMING EITHER FROM THE RIGHT OR LEFT. SINCE FIGUERES DID NOT WISH TO SEE A COUP FROM EITHER OF THESE SOURCES, IF ODUBER WAS NOT PREPARED TO ACT, THEN HE, FIGUERES, WOULD FEEL IT NECESSARY TO DO SO HIMSELF.

2. ODUBER SAID HE TOLD FIGUERES THEY SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY HASTY ACTION BUT SHOULD WAIT AND WORK WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES AND SEE HOW THINGS TURN OUT. ODUBER SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE FIGUERES TO CHANGE HIS MIND, BUT IN ANY CASE HE CONTINUES TO WATCH THE FIGUERES PEOPLE VERY CLOSELY.

3. I MENTIONED HAVING HEARD COMMENTS THAT OTHER PEOPLE WERE ALSO TALKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A COUP ATTEMPT.

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ODUBER SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT ELEMENTS OF BOTH THE EXTREME

LEFT AND THE EXTREME RIGHT WERE TALKING OF A POSSIBLE COUP.
HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED AND
IS ABLE TO KEEP A CLOSE ENOUGH WATCH ON THEM TO INSURE THAT
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN. HE SAID HE IS IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN
TACTICS TO DIVIDE THE LEFT AND TO ISOLATE AND THEN NEUTRALIZE
THE MORE EXTREME ELEMENTS SUCH AS THE POPULAR STUDENT
MOVEMENT (MEP) IN THE UNIVERSITY.
TODMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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